

**University of Idaho**

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September 15, 2006

Senator Tom Coburn  
172 SROB  
Washington, D.C. 20510-3604  
Fax: (202) 224-6008

Dear Senator Coburn:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 27, 2006 requesting information on federal appropriations for the University of Idaho.

The University of Idaho is similar to other institutions in Idaho and in other states in its dependence upon federal appropriations for a broad range of activities that benefit its students and the state. Federal appropriations cover a vast number of programs from student financial aid, to agriculture extension, to research in support of companies in our state, as well as the wise and effective use of Idaho's abundant natural resources. Idaho has a particularly large number of resource issues because of the vast percentage of federal lands in our state. Since 2000, our federal grants and appropriations have ranged up to approximately \$70 million a year, most of which comes to the university in the form of formula-distributed dollars or competitive grants and contracts.

Our federal appropriations efforts are closely tied to both the University of Idaho's Strategic Plan and to the work of our Research Office in pursuing the Plan. Last year the University of Idaho adopted five major strategic themes to chart the course for future university successes. The strategic themes we are following in seeking federal appropriations to support our research activities include:

- Promoting science and technology
- Advancing the liberal arts and sciences
- Catalyzing entrepreneurial innovation
- Stewarding the environment
- Understanding sustainable design and lifestyle

A routine part of our federal funding request process, whether it is for competitive grants or designated appropriations, is to include anticipated outcomes should the project be funded.

We consider proposals to seek federally-appropriated funds for projects on a project-by-project basis. Many of those projects involve partnering with other universities.

Prior to submitting requests for collaborative projects, each participating institution determines that the project is in compliance with the policies of their institution.

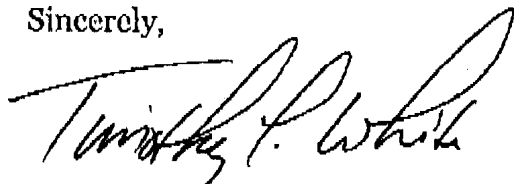
We have an extremely good working relationship with our congressional delegation. We have internal processes that result in several layers of review, and we vet proposals further with the congressional offices. This applies to both competitive and directed appropriations. We use both internal staff and external consultants for federal agency and congressional matters.

The majority of the federal funds we receive come from sources other than earmarked appropriations. All federal funds our university receives provide an important contribution to our ability to serve our student, our state, our nation and the world.

Traditionally, the Idaho congressional delegation has been strongly supportive of helping to meet the needs of Idaho and our post-secondary educational institutions. We appreciate the efforts of our congressional delegation and look forward to continuing to work with them and their excellent staffs.

Please excuse the delay in responding, but your letter arrived prior to the beginning of the fall semester and was caught up in the flurry of activity that takes place at the beginning of each school year.

Sincerely,



Timothy P. White  
President

cc: Senator Larry Craig  
Senator Mike Crapo  
Congressman C.L. Otter  
Congressman Mike Simpson